

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01839 01 OF 02 220844Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
SSM-03 MCT-01 EB-08 AID-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /108 W
-----220858Z 061759 /17

P R 220748Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3762
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 251
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 1839

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PINS PINT LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION APRIL 15-21

REF: BEIRUT 1683 (DTG 141337Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR BROUGHT
BACK TO BEIRUT A NEW SOFT KUWAITI LINE ON THE CAIRO ACCORDS
THAT RULES OUT DECISIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FACE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01839 01 OF 02 220844Z

PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION. THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH
REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE, ALTHOUGH INTERNECINE PALE-
STINIAN CONFLICTS RESUMED. ROUTINE ROTATIONS OF SYRIAN
UNITS IN LEBANON TOOK PLACE. THERE WERE TWO EXPLOSIONS
IN THE CHRISTIAN SUBURB OF SIN AL FIL. SAEB SALAM AND
HIS FOLLOWERS MET, BUT WERE CRITICIZED BY THE POPULAR
SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) FOR ADVOCATING A SPECIAL ROLE FOR

THE ISLAMIC GROUPING. A WORLD BANK TEAM ARRIVED IN LEBANON. MINISTER OF FINANCE FARID RAPHAEL ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN KUWAIT. END SUMMARY.

2. KUWAITI SOFT LINE ON CAIRO ACCORDS.

A. KUWAITI AMBASSADOR HAMID AL BUAYJAN RETURNED TO BEIRUT ON APRIL 12 AFTER TEN DAYS IN KUWAIT WHICH INCLUDED TALKS WITH A NUMBER OF PLO LEADERS, INCLUDING FAROUK KADDOUMI. UPON ARRIVING IN LEBANON, BUAYJAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT AN "ACCEPTABLE FORMULA" HAD BEEN FOUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS. HOWEVER, THE NEWLY-EMERGED KUWAITI POSITION HOLDS THAT THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES SHOULD AGREE TO ANY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, THAT LEBANESE POLITICAL RECONCILIATION MUST ACCOMPANY IMPLEMENTATION, AND THAT THE ROLE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE IS ONE OF MEDIATION AND CONSULTATION RATHER THAN TO MAKE DECISIONS. THIS SITUATION PUTS THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS ALSO SYRIA, IN A DIFFICULT POSITION (SEPTTEL).

3. BUAYJAN MEETS GEMAYEL.

AMBASSADOR BUAYJAN ALSO MET WITH PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL ON APRIL 19. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, BUAYJAN TRIED TO MINIMIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT BY TELLING THE PRESS THERE WAS A PROBLEM ONLY WITH A "MINOR DETAIL" OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS. BUAYJAN IS SCHEDULED TO FACE THE MUSIC WITH THE ASSEMBLED KFUR FRONT LEADERS ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01839 01 OF 02 220844Z

APRIL 22.

4. THE SOUTH.

A. SHELLING CONTINUED IN THE SOUTH, BUT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE GROUND COMBAT BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS. AT THE SAME TIME, INTERNECINE CONFLICTS BETWEEN FACTIONS OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE/GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP/GC) RESUMED. ACCORDING TO HALIM FAYYAD, THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF SOUTH LEBANON, FOLLOWERS OF PFLP/GC POLITBURO MEMBER ABU ABBAS ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OCCUPY AN OFFICE IN NABATIYAH STAFFED BY FOLLOWERS OF PFLP/GC LEADER AHMED JIBRIL. FOUR PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE RESULTING FIGHTING.

B. RELIABLE DATT SOURCE IN SOUTH LEBANON REPORTS THAT SYRIAN ASF CAPTURED A TEN-MAN TERRORIST RING IN SIDON ON APRIL 17. THIS GROUP CONSISTED OF SIX PALESTINIANS AND FOUR LEBANESE COMMUNISTS AND HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR

VARIOUS EXPLOSIONS AND ASSASSINATIONS IN THE SIDON AREA. SOURCE REMARKED THAT SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE APPEARS TO BE PUTTING GREATER PRESSURE ON LEFTIST GROUPS IN THE SOUTH THAN IN BEIRUT.

5. SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS.

THE SYRIAN ARMY HAS BEEN MOVING UNITS OF THE THIRD ARMORED DIVISION BACK TO SYRIA AND REPLACING THEM WITH UNITS THAT ARE AS YET NOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED. RECENT MOVEMENTS OF HUNDREDS OF TRUCKS, BUSES, AND TROOP TRANSPORTS BACK AND FORTH ON THE BEIRUT-DAMASCUS HIGHWAY HAS BEEN STALLING CIVILIAN TRAFFIC FOR HOURS. THE THIRD DIVISION'S 65TH BRIGADE, LOCATED BETWEEN CHTAURA AND BAALBEK, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED INDEPENDENT BRIGADE REPORTEDLY COMMANDED BY COL. ABDUL KAREEM AMMAR. THE 21ST BRIGADE OF THE THIRD DIVISION IN SIDON HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 01839 01 OF 02 220844Z

ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN REPLACED. THE FINAL BRIGADE OF THE THIRD DIVISION, THE 81ST, IS STILL LOCATED IN THE HAZMIEH-ALEY AREA, BUT IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE REST OF THE DIVISION TO SYRIA SOON.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01839 02 OF 02 220833Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 MCT-01
EB-08 AID-05 DHA-02 /108 W
-----220859Z 061591 /17

P R 220748Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3763
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 252
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 1839

6. EXPLOSIONS IN SIN AL FIL.

ACCORDING TO LEBANESE POLICE SOURCES, TWO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE SET OFF ABOUT 150 METERS FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY IN THE CHRISTIAN SUBURB OF SIN AL FIL ON APRIL 19. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. THE MOTIVES AND AUTHORS ARE UNKNOWN.

7. ISLAMIC GROUP SPLIT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01839 02 OF 02 220833Z

A. SAEB SALAM AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE ISLAMIC GROUPING MET APRIL 16. PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS WAS ALSO PRESENT, BUT RACHID KARAME AND HIS SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTER ABDULLAH YAFFI, BOYCOTTED THE MEETING.

B. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, SALAM AND KARAME ARE AT ODDS ON HOW TO BEGIN A POLITICAL DIALOG WITH THE CHRISTIANS. SALAM WANTS TO MAKE THE ISLAMIC GROUPING THE CHRISTIAN'S MAIN INTERLOCUTOR, AND REFUSES TO DEAL WITH THE LEFTIST NATIONAL MOVEMENT. KARAME FAVORS A BROAD COALITION, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND OTHER MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS, AS THE VEHICLE FOR DIALOG WITH THE CHRISTIANS.

8. PSP ISSUES STATEMENT.

THE COMMAND COUNCIL OF THE POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE WEEK--WITH WALID JUNBLATT IN ATTENDANCE--AND ON APRIL 18 ISSUED A STATEMENT REITERATING POSITIONS OF KAMAL JUNBLATT:

-- BY REJECTING ATTEMPTS "TO PUT SOME GROUPS IN AN ADVANCED POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED POLITICAL DIALOG," THE STATEMENT INDIRECTLY BUT UNMISTAKABLY

CRITICED SAEB SALAM'S ADVOCACY OF A PRIVILEGED ROLE
FOR THE ISLAMIC GROUPING;

-- BY ALSO REJECTING "NEW TRIBAL AGREEMENTS WHICH CONSE-
CRATE AGAIN CONFESSIONAL CONCESSIONS," THE STATEMENT
CONDEMNED THE NATIONAL COVENANT AND IMPLICITLY
ENDORSED RADICAL CHANGE LEADING TO A NON-CONFESSIONAL
STATE.

THE COUNCIL ALSO CALLED FOR AN END TO PRESS CENSORSHIP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01839 02 OF 02 220833Z

AND FOR SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS.

9. WORLD BANK TEAM.

A WORLD BANK TEAM ARRIVED IN BEIRUT ON APRIL 18 AND
MET WITH MOHAMMAD ATALLAH, HEAD OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND
RECONSTRUCTION BOARD. MOST PAPERS REPORTED THAT THE
BANK HAD AGREED TO EXTEND \$73 MILLION IN LOANS TO LEBANON:

- \$33 MILLION FOR HIGHWAYS, INCLUDING THE TABARJA BEACH/
TRIPOLI EXPRESSWAY (THE GOL WOULD CONTRIBUTE \$65 MILLION);

-- \$24 MILLION FOR BEIRUT PORT (THE GOL WOULD CONTRIBUTE
\$21 MILLION);

-- \$6.6 MILLION FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN DEKWANE,
TRIPOLI, AND ZAHLE;

- \$10 MILLION FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

10. COMINGS AND GOINGS.

PIERRE GEMAYEL VISITED DAMASCUS ON APRIL 14. SHIA
LEADER IMAM MOUSA SADR VISITED AMMAN FROM APRIL 14-17.
FINANCE MINISTER FARID RAPHAEL ATTENDED A MEETING OF
THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN
KUWAIT ON APRIL 16 AND 17.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT01839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770140-0210
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770431/aaaababf.tel
Line Count: 268
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b53430a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 1683
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2730582
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION APRIL 15-21
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b53430a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009